



JANUARY 1990



## ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

# Newsletter

Welcome to a new term - and to a new decade! This Newsletter needs reading in conjunction with the Spring Term Diary of Events and the January issue of the RAM Magazine - both of them imminent and interesting (the Magazine, amongst other things, contains lots of news about ex-students' activities and occupations).

### STUDENTS' NEWS

News from the Singers. Congratulations are due to **Mark Le Brocq** for a three-year Opera Scholarship from the Wolfson Foundation, to **Neal Davies** for the BP/Peter Pears Award, and to **Teresa Shaw** for first prize in the Contralto section of the Great Grimsby International Competition. Teresa also played a principal role in British Youth Opera's production of 'The Magic Flute', along with **Roger Langford** and **Beverley McKeown**: in the BYO's 'Cosi fan Tutte', **Elaine McKrill** and **Andrew Dale-Forbes** represented RAM. Meanwhile, in Mid Wales Opera's first season **Bethan Dudley**, **Neal Davies**, **Joanne Lloyd** and **Simon Roberts** appeared in 'The Magic Flute' and **Hilary Summers** in 'Carmen'.

Congratulations to **Richard Farnes** on the award of the Henry Wood Conducting Scholarship, to **David Lawrence** on being awarded the Philharmonia Chorus Conducting Scholarship for 1989/90, and to **Esther Geldard** on winning the Northern Musicians Competition.

We're glad to see **Peter Mitchell** has been stitched up - in the best possible sense of course. He returned just after the end of last term, following his unpleasant car accident, and we wish him a continuing return to full facial health.

**Periklis Koukos** has just returned from a ten-day visit to France where, as the first recipient of the Hermès Fellowship for Composition, he visited the Hermès craftworks in Paris, Lyon, Nice, Grasse and St-Louis (nr Strasbourg). His 'mission' was to see if the experience of watching the craftsmen and women make the famous Hermès leather goods, perfumes, silks, scarves and, now, crystal would provide him with the necessary inspiration for a composition. If he had doubts at first, none existed on his return. He said that it had been the most tremendous experience. And the composition? The only cat **Periklis** would let out of the bag is that it may well feature the guitar.

### PROFESSORS' NEWS

**Colin Metters** writes that, since 1983, when the Conductors' Course began, 170 applications have been received, and 27 students have



been accepted. 'To my knowledge,' he adds, 'all 27 are now earning their living within the music profession - a few as professional players, many working with young orchestras and youth music groups, and at least seven conducting professionally in various parts of the world.' One of them, Mark Wigglesworth, recently won the Kyril Kondrashin International Conductor's Competition in the face of worldwide competition.

Colin also recently helped to smooth the way for the BBC to film a Conductors' class and orchestral rehearsal in Duke's Hall. This is likely to be shown in late January in BBC 2's 'The Late Show' as part of a film on conductors and conductor training.

Timothy Bowers' arrangement of songs by Oskar Merikanto was commissioned by 'Campanella', a choir from Finland, and recorded by them in October.

Skaila Kanga reports a very busy 1989 with the Nash Ensemble, helping to celebrate its Silver Jubilee, with concerts at the Wigmore Hall, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Proms and the Bath Festival. The Nash Ensemble (founded by Amelia Freedman, ex-RAM) is one of the most successful chamber ensembles this country has produced and the final concert in this 25th Anniversary Season will be at Wigmore Hall on 24th March. (Duncan Prescott, who left in 1987, writes to say that he has just been formally appointed a member of the Nash Ensemble.)

Meanwhile Skaila's duo with Tommy Reilly (Harmonica) will shortly contribute a half-hour programme to Yorkshire TV's series 'James Galway Invites'.

Geoffrey Mitchell, Conductor of the RAM Chamber Choir, writes: 'I am spending the first half of January 1990 in the Southern-Brazilian city of Curitiba, conducting workshop rehearsals and concerts with the Camerata Antiga of Curitiba (the only really professional chamber choir in the whole of Brazil) and its attendant chamber orchestra, in a programme of music by Stanford, Tippett, Tallis and Bruckner, and (with the orchestra) Handel. This follows a similar visit last January when we performed Britten, Holst, Brahms, Schutz and Purcell. The choir is about the same size as the RAM Chamber Choir, and enjoys a good deal of local fame and exposure - in concerts and on radio and television. Last January, both my concerts were recorded for both media.'

Edward Gregson has been nominated for an Ivor Novello Award for his title music to the BBC Television 'Young Musician of the Year' programmes. He also wrote the music for the highly acclaimed RSC production of 'The Plantagenets' trilogy, now running at the Barbican after a successful season in Stratford. In March, his 'Trumpet Concerto' will receive two performances from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and his 'Piano Sonata in one movement' and 'Six Little Pieces' for piano have recently appeared on CD.

This very month the National Philharmonic Hall in Warsaw stages a concert devoted to Paul Patterson's music. In May Paul attends the USA première of his 'Mass of the Sea' in Boston and the New York première of a new version of his choral work 'The End' for the King's Singers (its world première was last July in Seattle where it was sung with a chorus of 540 voices).

The long-awaited Associated Board free-bass accordion syllabus (compiled by Owen Murray) comes into effect this month. Owen has been invited by the Accordion Society of Australia to give five concerts there in 1991. Neil Varley - the first accordionist to be awarded an LRAM - will give the UK première of 'Curriculum Vitae' by Lucas Foss at the RAM American Music Festival in March.

#### GENERAL NEWS

The American Music Festival is now only a couple of months away - and a notice has been circulated that, since work on Duke's Hall will not now start till April, the major Festival concerts planned for St John's Smith Square will be held in the Academy instead. Keep watching the boards for continuing news.

Because Duke's Hall can now be used in the Spring Term, a concert by the RAM Symphony Orchestra will take place there on 9th February. John Georgiadis conducts, and the programme is printed in the Diary of Events. Note, too, the Sinfonia Orchestra's concert in Duke's Hall on 26th January.

A reminder that the first exchange between RAM and the Paris Conservatoire takes place in April, focusing on 20th-Century performance. About seven French students will be with us for a week. (Janne Thomson, Emily Benyon and Louise Songer will be at the Paris Conservatoire for a term each during 1990.)

This term the Academy's masterclasses will be held as follows:

January	15/17	: Bruno Canino (piano)
January	22	: Lynn Harrell (International Chair of Cello Studies)
January	24	: Frederick Fuller (baritone)
January	26/29	: Kenneth Gilbert (harpsichord)
February	2	: Sebastian Benda (piano)
February	12	: Lynn Harrell
February	16	: Menahem Breuer (piano)
March	21/22	: Robert Tear (International Chair of Vocal Studies)

Correcting an oversight in the September Newsletter, the following members of the administrative staff joined either recently or last autumn: Jim Mirabal (Deputy Administrator), Sharon Forte (Academic Affairs Office), Debbie Pole (Development Office), Robert Gammans (Security), Jane McFarland (Security), Wendy Wilton (Security)

Christmas may be over, but the Development Office has items for sale! RAM Postcards are only £3.50 the set, or 30p each for 13, and a new supply of Academy Tote Bags at (£6.50) each has just come in. We hope that RAM sweatshirts and T-Shirts will shortly be available. The Postcards fit neatly in the Bags - hurry along while stocks last...

The Deputy Warden returned in early December from a visit to Korea and Japan. The Korean trip was to establish contacts in the leading universities. In Japan he auditioned seven students for the Intermediate Certificate Course, and took on five (two singers, three pianists) who will start at the Academy this Easter. 'We're only just scratching the surface', said Mr



Thorogood on his return, 'there is terrific potential for enriching the Academy by recruiting fine young musicians from both Japan and Korea.'

Lord Gowrie's Review Body on the London Conservatoires visited the Academy on 14th November. Fourteen members of the Review Body toured the building, then assembled in the Concert Room to listen to a 30-minute Presentation by the Principal and the Directorate. A question-and-answer session followed, then the Review Body took tea with staff and students. A Report is promised by Easter, and we all wait with great interest to see what it will contain.

The Reunion Day for ex-RAM students on Saturday 11th November was a great success. Over 300 Alumni returned, many for the first time in years. Over 100 members of staff and current students took part either in performance or organization - a big thank you to all concerned from the Development Office! We quote from just one of the numerous letters we've had about it: "It was a privilege to hear the excellent performances of all the students and most interesting to see the developments within the building and the facilities available. It was an amazing feeling to meet up again with old friends one had not seen since leaving. The day was a resounding success - will you do it again please?" We'll have to wait till Duke's Hall is back in use - but the answer is yes, of course.

After his inaugural and highly successful visit to the Academy in November, Professor Zakhar Bron makes his second teaching visit in March. His intensive violin masterclasses created a great impression on all who either took part in them or observed them. Full details of the next series of classes can be obtained from Mel Wiggins, Academic Affairs Office.

The five courses that will form the July-August 1990 RAM/Regent's College International Summer School of Music are: Amadeus Quartet, Chamber Music; Michael Thompson, Horn; William Bennett, Flute; Zakhar Bron, Violin; and Classic Jazz. All interested participants or observers please contact the Deputy Warden.

In the Warden's spare time he collects howlers from school essays on classical music. Try these for size:

- \* Refrain means the part you'd better not sing.
- \* Handel was half-German, half-Italian and half-English. He was rather large.
- \* Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music.
- \* Henry Purcell is a well-known composer few people have heard of.
- \* Music sung by two people at the same time is called a duel.
- \* Caruso was at first an Italian. Then someone heard his voice and said he would go a long way. So he went to America.

Don't forget that if you have news for the Newsletter, the Development Office will be glad to receive it (Room G7 awaits your call). Students' News is particularly welcome.



